



# Quarterly Report



FIRST QUARTER FY 2010

Feb 2010

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), a federal economic stimulus program, was passed by Congress in February 2009 and was intended to stimulate the economy and lessen the impact of the recession on the American people. One of the key tools used by the federal government in this effort was, and continues to be, local governments.

By providing municipal governments with funding for housing assistance, public safety personnel and infrastructure construction, the federal government could quickly move federal funds directly into the economy in a way that benefited communities. [These funds were available through three different routes:](#)

- formula funding given directly to cities,
- funding which comes through state agencies, and
- funding distributed by federal agencies through competitive grants.

The City of Arlington sought to approach this opportunity with two goals; first, to seek funding which fit the needs of the community; and second, to maximize the funds available for those purposes. This effort began with an internal committee which reviewed ARRA funding opportunities to see which would be appropriate and beneficial to receive. Once these evaluations were made, each funding application was brought forward to the City Council for their consideration.

This process has brought just over \$20 million to the Arlington community in the following areas:

- **Public Safety** – Arlington received \$8.3 million in funding for assistance with local public safety initiatives, including funding three years of salary for 31 police officers, in addition to funding to focus on combating criminal narcotics trafficking.
- **Neighborhood and Housing Assistance** – Another \$6.2 million in ARRA funding has been targeted for helping with neighborhood and housing, particularly weatherization assistance for low-income homeowners and resources to purchase, rehabilitate and resell foreclosed homes to prevent them from becoming neighborhood blights.

- **Energy Efficiency** – A new method of funding, the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant, provided Arlington with \$3.4 million to engage in energy efficiency projects aimed at reducing energy consumption.
- **Transportation** – A total of \$2.5 million in funding came to Arlington to improve transportation through road repairs done by the Texas Department of Transportation to resurface sections of Collins and I-20, and to fund additional services from the City's Handitran program, providing transportation to the elderly and disabled population of Arlington.

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In the first quarter of FY2010, spending by the City of Arlington from its ARRA grants has totaled just over half a million dollars, \$585,172.95, and has generated 30.83 full time positions.

The majority of this spending occurred in the area of **public safety** with 24 police recruits starting in an October Police Academy class which is scheduled to graduate in August 2010. This funding comes from the Community Oriented Policing Support (COPS) program which has funding for hiring another seven police officers. COPS program funding pays for three years of the salary of an entry level police officer.

Another large portion of spending came from the **Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP)**, a funding source designed to purchase foreclosed or abandoned homes which all too often become neighborhood blights, bringing down nearby property values. NSP provides the City with funds to purchase these homes and resell them to qualified homebuyers. In November, the Nguyens, a family of four, moved into a four bedroom home in South Arlington which had sat vacant for six months. At the ribbon cutting ceremony on their new home, the

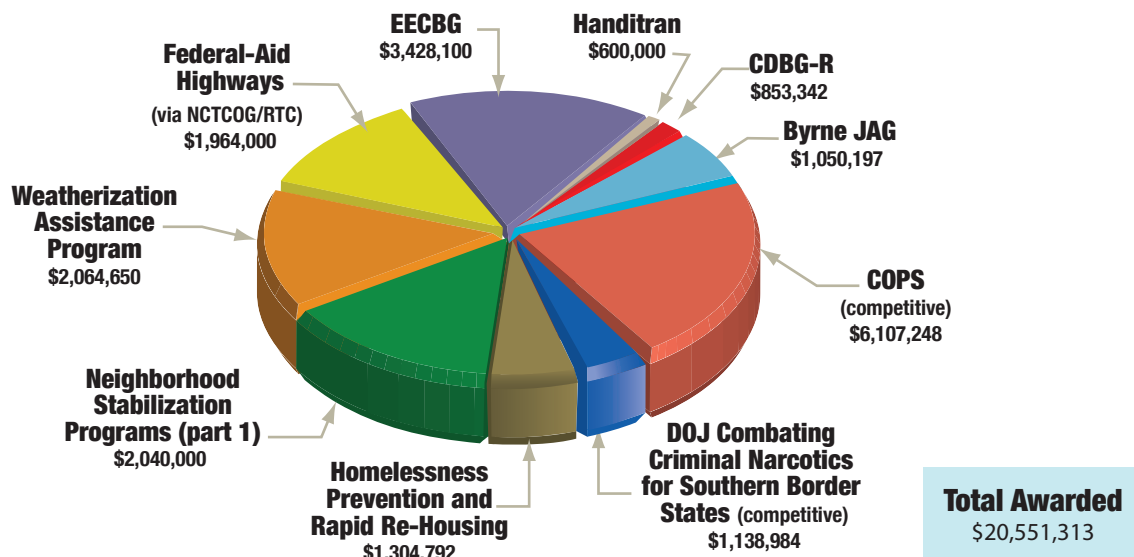
Nguyens thanked the program and those involved for helping to make their dream of homeownership come true. An additional 13 foreclosed homes are now in the process of being readied for homeownership.

In the second quarter of FY2010, work will continue to move forward on the City's **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant**, an effort to improve the energy efficiency of two municipal buildings by upgrading HVAC systems, improved weather sealing and the installation of more energy efficient light fixtures. Initial estimates indicate that these improvements will improve energy savings in these buildings by 30%, a savings which will allow the City to focus additional resources on the community's priorities. In the second quarter of FY2010, work will begin to

install energy efficient lighting in seven recreation centers and expand its commercial recycling program.

Three **street resurfacing projects**, located on I-20 and Collins Street will be funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Funded with a total of \$1.9 million which came through the Texas Department of Transportation, these projects will be guided by the North Central Texas Council of Governments. All of these projects have been let and are currently under construction.

More information on the Arlington ARRA funding can be found at [www.arlingtontx.gov/recovery/index.html](http://www.arlingtontx.gov/recovery/index.html).



- ARRA – American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
- EECBG – Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grants
- CDBG-R – Community Development Block Grants-Recovery
- Byrne JAG – Byrne Justice Assistance Grants
- COPS – Community Oriented Policing Strategies
- DOJ Combating Criminal Narcotics for Southern Border States – Department of Justice Combating Criminal Narcotics for Southern Border States